



UNEXPECTED: Week 1

WEEK 1: INWARD APPEARANCE

Bible: 1 Samuel 16:7; 1 Peter 3:3-4; Proverbs 31:30; Luke 12:22-23; Genesis 1:26-27; 1 John 4:7-8

Bottom Line: The world is full of people who look at the outward appearance. God cares about your heart and loves you regardless of outward appearance.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students have some challenging lessons ahead of them.

As they begin to discover who they are in school, they will discover that a lot of their peers focus their attention on outward appearance.

This twist in life can cause you to think it is very important.

However, God cares about your heart, not your appearance.

TEACH

How important is clothing to you?

For some of you, it isn't that big of a deal. (Maybe it's having the right baseball gear or dance uniform).

Did you know in America, we spend 12 billion dollars on clothes?

If that doesn't shock you, did you know 6.2 billion dollars in make-up is bought each year?

Outward appearance seems to be a big deal.

The internet and YOUTUBE want you to believe your outward appearance is everything.

The world tends to look at the outward appearance to judge who you are—it isn't right, but it's a reality we all deal with.

God, however, does not look at the outward appearance.

God looks inward at your heart.

Let us look at what Scripture tells us.

Let's go to **1 Samuel 16:7** while I (YOU Dad or MOM ☺) set the scene.

Samuel is a prophet.

God called Samuel at a young age to be a judge over his people.

The people looked to Samuel for guidance.

God spoke directly to Samuel and gave him instructions.

At this point in the story, Saul is King, but God is looking to appoint a new king.

God sends Samuel to Bethlehem to meet Jesse.

Among Jesse's sons, there will be a king.

Samuel has to secretly go to Bethlehem, because if King Saul found out Samuel was going to appoint a new king, Saul would kill Samuel.

God tells Samuel to take a heifer with him so he can say he was bringing it to Bethlehem to sacrifice.

If Samuel told Saul why he was really going to Bethlehem, Saul would have surely killed Samuel.

Samuel was going to stand among Jesse's sons and God would let Samuel know who the new king was going to be.

Jesse brought seven of his sons before Samuel.

Let's read the instructions God gives Samuel to pick the new king.

READ 1 Samuel 16:7-13

This shows us that God focuses more on our inward appearance.

Jesse brought seven of his sons before Samuel.

The first son was big and handsome, looking exactly how you think a king should look.

But God tells Samuel that son isn't the next king.

This happens again and again.

Each son is brought before Samuel and God says they are definitely not the king.

Samuel asked Jesse if this was all of his sons and Jesse responds, "No I have one more, but he is taking care of the sheep."

Jesse didn't bother to bring David because he was the youngest, smallest, and thought for sure that David was not King material.

This account of David being chosen as king is a lot like real life.

People look at other people and think they aren't important because of how they look.

God does not look at your outward appearance as valuable—God sees your inward appearance as valuable.

The most important thing for Christians to do is to make sure their heart is right before God.

Are you more focused on taking care of how you look on the outside?

God wants you to focus on your inside and have your heart right before the Lord.

It's the internal, not the external, that affects the eternal.

We see this in the Old Testament, but this is echoed in the New Testament as well.

Turn to Luke Chapter 12.

Read LUKE 12:22-23.

Luke tells us we should not be anxious about what we are going to eat or what we will wear.

If you wake up in the morning and have anxiety because your clothes aren't the latest and greatest, you care way more than you need to about clothes.

All of you in your house are wearing clothes. (hopefully!! haha)

God has supplied you with exactly what you need.

But it's not the most important thing in this world, and it shouldn't bring about anxiety.

Sometimes, we care too much because we see that the world values outward appearance.

We see models who seem to be perfect and we deceive ourselves into thinking, "If I just looked like them, I would be happy."

God doesn't make mistakes.

God created you in His image, and He looks at you and sees your heart—not your clothing, or make up, or your body type.

God sees your heart and wants you to care more about your inward appearance than your outward appearance.

Don't believe in the lies that tell us looks are important.

Looks will eventually fade as you grow old.

Your relationship with God will live on forever.

How do you make sure you're focusing on your inward appearance?

You focus on your relationship with God. How do you do that? How do we do that as a family?

If you have focused more on your outward appearance, ask God to change your heart.

Turn away from caring about the importance of outward appearance and ask God to help you work on your inward appearance.

If you have been judging others based on their outward appearance, seek out forgiveness from God.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is the outward appearance so important to people?
2. How much of your time is devoted to outward appearance each week?
3. How important are a person's looks to you?

4. Why does God care more about your inward appearance than your outward appearance?
5. What should you do if your friends are picking on a person because of their looks? (What have you done in the past? Anything? If not, why haven't you?)
6. How can you help your friend feel better about their outward appearance?
7. How can God help us focus more on our inward appearance?